

Message Text

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RH

SUBJ: CODEL, PERCY REPORT ON TALKS WITH MUZOREWA IN LUSAKA

SENATOR PERCY HAS ASKED FOLLOWING REPORT BE TRANSMITTED
TO WASHINGTON WITH COPIES BEING PROVIDED TO:

SECDEF

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

GEORGE BUSH

US PERM REP UN SCRANTON

NADINE JACOBSEN, SEN. PERCY'S OFFICE

PAT HOLT, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. APRIL 17 MEETING WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA IN LUSAKA
LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR AND PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY
FOR CODEL TO ASSESS PERSONALITY AND CURRENT POSITIONS
OF ANC LEADER REPUTEDLY WITH LARGEST FOLLOWING AMONG
BLACKS IN RHODESIA. (PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD CODEL HE
GREATLY PREFERS NKOMO AS RHODESIAN LEADER TO MUZOREWA,
BUT NKOMO HAS UNFORTUNATE QUOTE UNCLE TOM UNQUOTE
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IMAGE AMONG SOME YOUNG RHODESIANS BECAUSE OF ENGAGING

IN TALKS WITH SMITH; BISHOP'S TRIBAL POLITICAL BASE
ALSO MUCH LARGER THAN NKOMO'S.)

2. BISHOP'S MAIN THEME WAS THAT THE ROUTE OF PEACEFUL
POLITICAL CHANGE IN RHODESIA HAD BEEN FORECLOSED BY IAN
SMITH LEAVING ARMED STRUGGLE AS THE ONLY REALISTIC PATH.
QUOTE IT IS STUPID TO TALK WHEN THEY ONLY RESPOND WITH
SHOWERS OF BULLETS UNQUOTE. SENATOR SAID DOCUMENTARY
EVIDENCE OF THIS WOULD BE USEFUL TO HIM AND BISHOP
AGREED TO PROVIDE. SMITH, BISHOP SAID, IS SUPPORTED
BY SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WEST. FOR YEARS, THE BISHOP
SAID, HE HAS TRAVELED TO AMERICA AND SOUGHT US SUPPORT,
ALWAYS IN VAIN. HE MENTIONED BYRD AMENDMENT, AND
SENATOR INDICATED STRONG RESOLVE TO WORK FOR ITS
REPEAL. BISHOP SAID THIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT INDICATOR
OF NEW US POLICY.

3. BISHOP ASKED RHETORICALLY IF IT MORE CHRISTIAN TO
ALLOW STRUGGLE TO DRAG ON YEAR AFTER YEAR OR TO GET
IT OVER WITH QUICKLY. HE SAID LIBERATION FORCES GAINING
SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ALSO RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM MANY
SOURCES. INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE ARMS AID FROM US FOR
LIBERATION FORCES BUT NOT SANGUINE ABOUT GETTING IT.
ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING US POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC SUPPORT, WHICH SENATOR INDICATED HE FAVORED.
BISHOP SAID HE WAS EARLY PROPONENT OF CALLAGHAN
PROPOSAL FOR BUYING OUT THE RHODESIAN WHITES AND HE
LOOKS FORWARD TO TIME WHEN THIS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.
HE SAID HE IS NOT FIGHTING AGAINST A RACE BUT AGAINST
A RACIST SYSTEM. HE ENVISIONS RHODESIA AS A MULTI-
RACIAL SOCIETY. ASKED BY CODEL IF A NEW MARXIST
LEADERSHIP MIGHT BE EMERGING IN THE GUEERRILLA TRAINING
CAMPS FOR RHODESIAN FORCES IN MOZAMBIQUE, THE BISHOP
SAID IT WAS QUOTE PREMATURE TO MAKE THAT JUDGMENT
UNQUOTE.

4. SEN. PERCY ASKED IF FORMATION IN US OF PRIVATE
FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF VICTIMS
OF IAN SMITH'S BULLETS WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND BISHOP
REPLIED IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT SYMBOLICALLY AS
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INDICATION OF US PUBLIC SYMPATHIES, AS FURTHER EVIDENCE
OF MUCH NEEDED NEW US SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY AND AS
STILL ANOTHER SIGNAL TO IAN SMITH AND HIS HARD LINE
SUPPORTERS OF CRUMBLING SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION.
BOWDLER

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